AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1-15. (Cancelled)

16. (New): A moving image reproducing apparatus that reproduces in a high image quality mode or a low image quality mode a moving image constituted by frame-sequential compressed still images, each of said compressed still images including a plurality of encoded image components formed by encoding said compressed still image for each frequency component, comprising:

a receiver which receives in a frame-sequential manner the plurality of encoded image components;

a decoder which decodes, in an order from a lower frequency component, the plurality of the encoded image components received by said receiver in the high image quality mode;

a determiner which determines whether or not a decoding process of the encoded image components for one frame in the high image quality mode is completed by said decoder when the plurality of encoded image components equal to the compressed still images for a next frame are received by said receiver;

a setter which sets said decoder to the low image quality mode when said determiner determines that the decoding process has not been completed;

a multiplexer which produces decoded still images for one frame by multiplexing with each other a plurality of the decoded image components decoded by said decoder; and

a reproducer which reproduces said moving image by the decoded still images produced by said multiplexer.

17. (New): A moving image reproducing method in a moving image reproducing apparatus that reproduces the moving image constituted by frame-sequential compressed still images, each of said compressed still images including a plurality of encoded image components formed by encoding said compressed still image for each frequency component, and the plurality of the encoded image components being decoded in an order from a lower frequency component by a decoder, said apparatus further comprising a multiplexer which produces decoded still images for one frame by multiplexing with each other a plurality of the decoded image components decoded by said decoder and a reproducer which reproduces the moving image based on the decoded still images produced by said multiplexer, comprising the steps of:

first setting said decoder in the high image quality mode;

receiving the plurality of encoded image components in a frame-sequential manner;

determining whether or not a decoding process of the encoded image components for one frame in the high image quality mode is completed by said decoder when the plurality of encoded image components equal to the compressed still images for a next frame are received in the receiving step; and

setting said decoder to the low image quality mode when it is determined that the decoding process has not been completed in the determining step.

18. (New): A moving image reproducing method according to claim 17, wherein when the decoder is set to the low image quality mode, said low image quality mode is maintained until said high image quality mode is set by setting said decoder in the high image quality mode again.

19. (New): A moving image reproducing method according to claim 17 or 18, further comprising a step of determining whether or not a high image quality fixing mode is selected when it is determined that the decoding process has not been completed in said step of determining whether or not the decoding process is completed, wherein

said low image quality mode is set by setting said decoder to the low image quality mode when it is determined that the decoding process has not been completed in said step of determining whether or not the decoding process is completed and it is determined that the high image quality fixing mode is not selected.